

Serial No. 10/533,910

Attorney Docket No. 24-023-TN

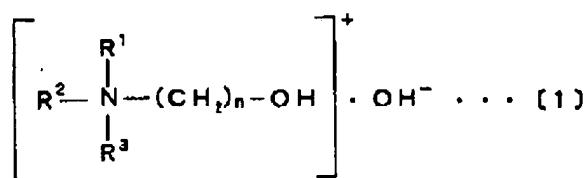
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LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. – 4. (Canceled).

5. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in a steam generating unit, comprising:

preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:



(wherein R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10), and

adding the quaternary ammonium compound to water which contacts may contact the inside of the steam generating unit.

6. (Currently Amended) The method for preventing corrosion of metal in a steam generating unit according to Claim 5, wherein the quaternary ammonium compound described by the general formula [1] is added in the range of 0.1-50 mg/L to feed water which contacts may contact the inside of the steam generating unit.

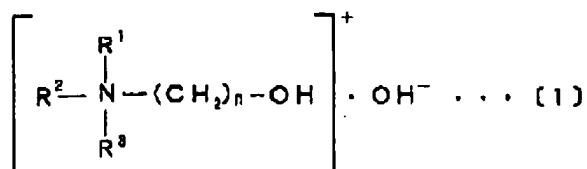
7. (Canceled).

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8. (Currently Amended) A method for preventing corrosion of metal in an atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process, comprising:

preparing a quaternary ammonium compound described by general formula [1] below:



(in which R^1 , R^2 and R^3 are the same or different hydrocarbon radicals with 1 to 4 carbon atoms, and n is an integer between 1 and 10), and

adding the quaternary ammonium compound to fluid which contacts ~~may contact~~ the inside of the atmospheric distillation column for petroleum refining process such that a pH value thereof at the top line of the atmospheric distillation column is 5.5-6.5.

9. - 10. (Canceled)

11. (Previously presented) A method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit, comprising:

preparing (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide; and

adding the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide to the desalted crude oil in between a crude oil desalter and a main distillation column in the crude oil atmospheric distillation unit.

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12. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled to 0.1-5 times by molar equivalent the salts content in the desalted crude oil.

13. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claim 11, wherein the chloride ion concentration or pH of the condensed water in the main distillation unit is measured, and the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled based on the measurement results.

14. (Original) The method for inhibiting formation of hydrogen chloride in a crude oil atmospheric distillation unit according to Claims 11, wherein the (β -hydroxyethyl) trimethylammonium hydroxide content is controlled such that the chloride ion concentration (sodium chloride conversion) of the overhead receiver water is 0-30 mg/L or the pH of the overhead receiver water is 5.5-7.0.